

Appln No. 09/942,602
Amdt. Dated March 29, 2005
Response to Office action of February 22, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of February 22, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the present application. In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 has been further amended to specify that the device includes receiving means for receiving a card having a pattern encoding text and/or graphics of an entire document printed thereon, that the receiving means incorporates a roller mechanism arranged to retract the card into the device and that the scanning means is arranged to scan the printed pattern as the card is retracted into the device by the roller mechanism. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 11-17 of the present specification and in pending claims 5 and 6;

dependent claims 5 and 6 are cancelled in conformance with amended claim 1;

dependent claim 7 is amended to be dependent from claim 2 in conformance with the cancellation of claim 6;

dependent claims 9 and 10 are amended in conformance with amended claim 1;

independent claim 17 is amended similar to claim 1;

independent claim 18 is cancelled; and

dependent claims 2-4, 8 and 11-16 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add any new issues to those already presented in the present application as the features incorporated into amended independent claims 1 and 17 are currently recited in pending dependent claims 5 and 6.

Regarding Response to Arguments

The Examiner responds to the Applicant's Remarks made in response to the first Office Action of September 8, 2004 regarding the teachings of Swartz contending that "Swartz further discloses that the barcode symbol contains high information density and capacity... Thus, the size of the information stored in the two-dimensional barcode symbol

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is considered an obvious design choice." The Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Whilst Swartz does disclose that the two-dimensional bar code symbol has high information density and capacity capabilities at col. 1, lines 38-40 and col. 3, lines 5-24, Swartz also discloses at col. 1, lines 40-50 and col. 3, lines 19-23 that the two-dimensional bar code symbol only has sufficient information density and capacity to represent text filling a letter-sized document and that if the capacity required exceeds a single symbol, multiple symbols must be provided. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a number of bar codes in order to represent more than one page's worth of text (and/or graphics) using the bar code of Swartz. This is supported at col. 1, lines 29-52 of Ohara which discloses that the quantity of information bar codes can contain is limited by the amount of space the bar codes must occupy.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contention, the size of the information to be stored in the two-dimensional bar code symbol of Swartz is not an obvious design choice, but rather a limited design choice.

Having said this, the Applicant has further amended independent claims 1 and 17 as described above in the interest of expediting the present application.

Regarding Continued Rejections under Kondo in view of Swartz et al.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 17, and claims 2-4 and 7-16 dependent from claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Kondo either taken alone or in combination with Swartz for at least the following reasons.

As described above, the Applicant has further amended independent claims 1 and 17 to further define the mechanisms of the claimed device which enable efficient and effective reading of the text and/or graphics represented by the printed pattern of the present invention.

That is, in the present invention the text and/or graphics of a document, such as a book or magazine, is encoded as a printed pattern on a data card 18. The data card 18 is received in a card slot 24 of the electronic book device 2 upon which the card 18 is retracted

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into the device 2 through engagement with a roller 34 under action of electric motor 32. As the card is drawn into the device 2, scan head 30 scans the printed pattern on the card 18 and converts it to a data signal for processing by CPU and 46 and subsequent display.

In this way, the electronic text and/or graphics presentation device of the present invention can be made conveniently compact, simple and relatively inexpensive because complex moving scanners and data storage is not necessary for the storage and scanning of information pertaining to an entire document (see page 1, lines 19-30, page 4, lines 17-19, and page 6, lines 11-17 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Kondo discloses electronic book 1 which reads image data from recording medium 5, namely a CD, MD or MO, and displays the image data on LCDs 27,28 under operation of CPU 21 (see col. 2, lines 22-38 of Kondo). Thus, the scanner used by Kondo is a complex laser scanner or the like which scans information stored on a disk, not a relatively simple scanner which scans a card having a pattern encoding image data printed thereon as the card is retracted by a roller mechanism.

Swartz does not make up for this deficiency in Kondo. This is because, in relation to encoding text and/or graphics of a document (including "one page information of the book" as suggested by the Examiner in the Response to Arguments), Swartz merely discloses providing a two-dimensional bar code symbol 42 on a page surface 44 which may be scanned by a scanner/decoder 46 (see col. 4, lines 27-49 of Swartz). Thus, the symbol 42 encoding an "entire" document is not printed on a card which is insertable into a device, and as such Swartz does not teach or suggest providing a mechanism for retracting the card into the device so that the scanner may scan the symbol.

It is noted that the cards of the embodiments disclosed at col. 5, line 12-col. 7, line 8 of Swartz do not encode text and/or graphics of an entire document nor constitute a card which is disclosed as being inserted into an electronic text and/or graphics presentation device.

Based on the above-discussed lack of teaching in both Kondo and Swartz, the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention, with respect to pending claims 5 and 6, that "it would have been obvious to have included a retracting means [in the

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Examiner's combined Kondo and Swartz device]... because the card needs to be scanned or read inside of the housing." This is because, in any combination of Kondo and Swartz, the bar code symbol would be provided on a book page which is not conveniently retractable into a device for scanning.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 17, and dependent claims 2-4 and 7-16, is not taught or suggested by Kondo or Swartz either taken alone or in combination.

Regarding Continued Rejection under Kondo and Swartz further in view of Isao

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Kondo in view of Swartz and further in view of Isao for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

Like Kondo, Isao merely discloses reading data from a recording medium 5, such as a CD-ROM or MD (see paragraphs [0001] and [0016]). Thus, the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by the addition of Isao to Kondo and/or Swartz.

Regarding Continued Rejections under Kondo and Swartz further in view of Phillipps

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 11-13 is not taught or suggested by Kondo in view of Swartz and further in view of Phillipps for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

Like Kondo, Phillipps merely discloses reading data from a CD-ROM (see col. 3, lines 19-32). Thus, the subject matter of dependent claims 11-13 is not taught or suggested by the addition of Phillipps to Kondo and/or Swartz.

Regarding Continued Rejection under Kondo and Swartz further in view of Ohara et al.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 16 is not taught or suggested by Kondo in view of Swartz and further in view of Ohara for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

Ohara merely discloses a system in which the contents of a book are stored within a ROM and a location detection circuit is provided so that when a user touches certain

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locations of the book the information at that location can retrieved from the ROM and displayed on a video display (see col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 11).

Thus, the subject matter of dependent claim 16 is not taught or suggested by the addition of Ohara to Kondo and/or Swartz.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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